

# THE GLOBAL LINE

*Serving the U.S. Army Field Support Command*

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## JMC welcomes new commander

Rock Island, Ill. – In a traditional ceremony held Sept. 15 under a grey sky, Col. James E. Rogers formally took command of the U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command.

The flag of command was passed to Col. Rogers by Brig. Gen. Robert M. Radin, the outgoing commanding general of JMC. Radin is moving on to a new assignment at the Headquarters of the U.S. Army Materiel Command in Fort Belvoir, Va., where he will serve as deputy chief of staff for logistics and operations.

The post of JMC commander is normally held by a general officer, and Rogers has been nominated for promotion to brigadier general. The nomination is pending approval by the U.S. Senate.

JMC's mission is to manage production, storage, issue, and demilitarization of conventional ammunition for all U.S. military services. The command's worldwide workforce is comprised of approximately 15 military personnel, 4,000 federal civilian employees, and 7,500 contractor employees. Of that total, about 550 work at JMC Headquarters on Rock Island Arsenal.

Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson, commanding general of the U.S. Army Field Support Command,



Photo by Tony Lopez, EL Hamm

**Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson, commanding general, AFSC, presents the JMC command flag to incoming commander, Col. James E. Rogers, as outgoing commander Brig. Gen. Robert M. Radin observes.**

presided at the ceremony. In his remarks, Johnson noted he had made several recent overseas trips to areas where U.S. combat units are currently deployed.

"The Soldiers in the war zone will absolutely amaze you," Johnson said. "You don't need to worry about winning the war – it's going to take some time, but there's no doubt in my mind about the outcome.

"The generation of Soldiers out there today," he continued,

"knows how to get things done. They're focused on their mission, and they will accomplish it and win in the end."

Johnson stated that Soldiers and members of services depend on the munitions support delivered by JMC and its partner, the Program Executive Office for Ammunition at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J. Brig. Gen. Paul S. Izzo, who leads PEO-Ammo, was present at the ceremony.

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## On the Record: Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson, CG AFSC

It has been more than a month since Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, but the region continues to struggle with the devastating effects of the storm. A full recovery from Katrina will take many years and require us to expend significant resources, but our nation is committed to doing whatever it takes to make the area and its people whole again. When one part of America suffers, we all suffer, and we all want to reach out and help however we can.

In the wake of Katrina, the U.S. Armed Forces were called to assist in recovery operations. I am extremely proud of the response by our military, which has saved lives and provided assistance and comfort to the survivors. I am particularly proud of the role played by the U.S. Army Field Support Command and Joint Munitions Command in support of Joint Task Force-Katrina, the *ad hoc* organization formed to lead and coordinate military relief and recovery efforts.

Two of our installations – Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant and Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant – have been used as staging



and storage areas for relief supplies and temporary housing units. The Katrina task force has also tapped our logistical expertise, and some of our employees have gone to the area to provide direct assistance.

Our response to Hurricane Katrina – and to Hurricane Rita, which also caused extensive damage to the Gulf Coast – proved that we are ready when we are called, and that we will do all we can to help our fellow citizens. We are here to serve our nation, and we do so selflessly, loyally and proudly, no matter what mission we are asked to perform. I thank all of you for your service,

and I ask you to always remember that what you do has great value.

I'd also like to thank those of you who have reached out as individuals and made donations in cash and in kind to the private organizations assisting those impacted by the hurricane. Your generosity and compassion have already made a difference, and will continue to ease the suffering of the people of the Gulf Coast region in the weeks and months to come.

The devastating effects of the hurricanes served as a reminder that many of our fellow citizens are in need. The Combined Federal Campaign provides us with an opportunity to help meet these needs by contributing to the charitable organizations that provide a helping hand.

Your CFC donations will truly make a difference in the lives of others, and will sustain the organizations that will be there to assist you and your family should you ever find yourself in need. Please consider giving through CFC; by doing so, you'll help make our community, our nation and our world a better place for everyone.

### THE GLOBAL LINE

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## AFSC part of hurricane recovery mission



*Photo provided by Paul Woodhouse*

**Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant served as an area for temporary housing and relief supplies following Hurricane Katrina.**

Within days of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita roared into parts of the Gulf Coast, the Army Field Support Command answered the call.

According to Redding Hobby, director of AFSC's Field Support Directorate, AFSC's mission

included "providing initial life-saving communications and life support to our 'First Response' Logistics Assistance Representatives (LARs) and to ensure they had the equipment necessary to support themselves while logistically supporting Department of Defense, Department of the Army, local agencies, emergency workers and the warfighters."

The command's intent focused on utilizing the assets of the Army Materiel Command/AFSC (Force Command Liaison Office) to establish a link with the Joint Task Force-Katrina at Fort Gillem, Ga. The AFSB CONUS-West commander, Col. Darryl Bradley, represented AMC in support of JTF Katrina at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, La. Over 20 AFSC personnel have served in the region.

Two AFSC Joint Munitions Command installations – Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant and Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant – have been used as staging and storage areas for relief supplies and temporary housing units.

## Department of Defense official tours repair sites

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait** – A top Department of Defense official toured Army Materiel Command forward vehicle repair sites in Qatar and Kuwait on Sept. 29 and Sept. 30.

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Readiness Phillip "Jack" Bell began the two-country tour with Stryker repair operations at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar.

Bell witnessed how the repair and up-armor sites support the Soldier in Southwest Asia.

Maj. Gen. Brian I. Geehan, logistics chief for Central Command; Brig. Gen. Kevin Leonard, AMC commander, Southwest Asia; and Col. Charles Wilson, commander of AMC's Army Field Support Brigade Southwest Asia, accompanied Bell on tours through other vehicle repair facilities at Qatar and led Bell through vehicle repair operations at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait on Sept. 30.

Bell visited operations where engines and transmissions are rebuilt and where Army tactical vehicles are up-armored by Army and Navy civilian and contracted employees. The Pentagon chief also toured the Defense Logistics Agency storage complex near Camp Arifjan.



*Photo by Chuck Sprague, AFSB-SWA*

**Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Jack Bell listens as Brig. Gen. Kevin Leonard explains how Soldier's lives were saved this up-armored humvee was hit by an improvised explosive device in Iraq. Left to Right: Leonard, Col. Charles Wilson, Bell and Maj. Gen. Brian I. Geehan.**

AMC oversees several vehicle repair and up-armor sites in Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Qatar and has overall responsibility for all of the Army's pre-positioned equipment inventory and repair.

**-- Chuck Sprague, AFSB-SWA Public Affairs**



# AFSB-Pacific online supporting Soldiers

The seventh Army Field Support Brigade has been activated. AFSB-Pacific became official Aug. 15, continuing the evolution of an ever-changing mission based out of Fort Lewis, Wash.

Formerly known as Army Materiel Command Forward Stryker, AFSB-Pacific is subordinate to the U.S. Army Field Support Command. Its mission is preparation of AMC support to six Stryker Brigades. Charged with leading the new AFSB command is Col. Rocky Easter.

"It's been a challenge," Easter said of the transition into the new AFSB-Pacific. "We are having to lift and shift and learn to be a deployable brigade headquarters. There is a lot to learn."

AFSB-Pacific has an area of responsibility that stretches from Alaska and Hawaii to Southeast Asia and Australia. And, the brigade provides support to the Army National Guard and Reserve units within those areas.

"Everyone knows their job really well," Easter said of his staff. "They bring an immense amount of operational knowledge and that is really helping us make the transition into the deployable brigade headquarters."

Easter said it has been hard for the unit to pull away from being in charge and let subordinate units take the lead with certain projects.

Easter has been with the unit for a little over a year. He is an activated reservist who has been on active duty for three of the last four years. In his civilian life, Easter is an engineer with aircraft maker Boeing. He was activated just after Sept. 11, 2001. He spent a couple years at the Pentagon before heading back to work for Boeing. He then got a call asking him to come back and take command. It was a challenge he was eager to accept.

"I was thrilled to get the call from Maj. Gen. [Jerome] Johnson when he asked me to take command," Easter said. Easter added that he had been scheduled to relinquish command this summer but was asked again to stay on to help stand up the new Army Field Support Brigade-Pacific.

"To be honest, I was starting to cry in my beer, so-to-speak," Easter said of his pending end to command this past summer. "We have a phenomenal team here and it would have been hard to give up command."



*Photos taken by PAUL LEYKAMM, U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency*

**One missions of AFSB-Pacific includes repairing Strykers and supporting the six Stryker Brigades.**

Easter is slated for 24 months as commander of AFSB-Pacific. And, as he said, it will be a busy two years.

AFSB-Pacific, according to Easter, supports everything in Stryker that is not supported by the program manager. There are 79 different electronic systems in a Stryker and 22 of those systems are supported by AFSB-Pacific. Easter said his brigade takes care of any vehicle that is fielded, including Humvees, trucks, tankers and generators. The brigade provides this support through logistics assistance representatives who go out to the units and help with maintenance questions and supply problems.

"We don't do the work, we help the units do the work," Easter said.

One of Easter's primary concerns is learning more about the units his brigade supports, which, he said, presents a challenge.

"It's important that I get out and meet everyone, all the brigade commanders," Easter said. "Getting schedules to mesh has been difficult but Gen. [Benjamin] Griffin wants us to be the AMC face to the warfighter and that means meeting all the general officers we are responsible to support."

**-- Allen Marshall, AFSC  
Public Communications**

## AFSC Transportation a vital link to warfighter

Troops depend on the bullets, the tanks, and the armor to complete the mission. Those in the military transportation business make these items make it to its final destination: the Soldier.

Richard Nesbitt is instrumental in completing this important function.

Nesbitt is the chief, Transportation Division, Joint Munitions Command. In this capacity, he is opening new doors; working with other Armed Forces and joint military commands. An example of this include JMC's partnership with the United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), located at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., in transporting munitions in the continental United States and internationally.

"We play a role in a large percent of the transportation of munitions," said Nesbitt of his office's responsibility.

With 23 employees, Nesbitt's department is working hard to keep track of and ship the bullets Soldiers depend on to protect and serve the nation.

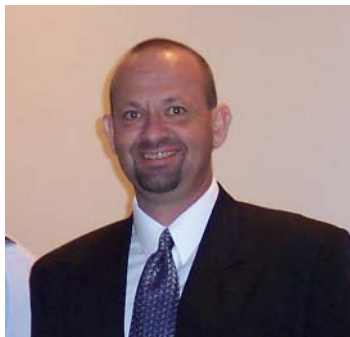
"We get assets to the troops when they need it," said Nesbitt about the office's mission to plan, coordinate, execute and track Department of Defense munitions.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, TRANSCOM and the Transportation Division at JMC changed the way they communicate and track supplies. Today they not only perform automated tracking but check in with depots more often to maintain accurate information. Daily and weekly reports are the standard.

The partnership between TRANSCOM and the JMC office began under retired Maj. Gen. Wade H. McManus, former commanding general of Army Field Support Command and JMC.

The Transportation office coordinates with TRANSCOM's subordinate commands for vessel and airlift movements. They work with Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) and the Military Sealift Command (MSC) for vessel movement and the Air Mobility Command (AMC) for aircraft movement.

As part of the communication process, AFSC/



**Rick Nesbitt**

JMC maintains an Ammo Liaison Office at USTRANSCOM. Representatives working in the liaison office are notified about munitions movements as soon as possible so everyone is clear on what is moving, where it is moving to -- and how.

Since May, JMC has been working with USTRANSCOM to incorporate a Lean Six Sigma program in their operations. The data-driven program aimed at eliminating defects would be

used mainly in offices to improve accuracy in supply and transportation information.

During a three-month special project at USTRANSCOM from Nov. 2004 through Jan. 2005, Nesbitt as well as Col. Billy Dowdy, JMC Deputy Command, took a look at the way the Department of Defense handles transportation from end-to-end. As a result, JMC is working more closely with TRANSCOM on issues relative to both commands.

Nesbitt wants to begin to automate things like the daily and weekly reports from installations to cut back on the number of partial shipments and increase the number of large, or full, shipments of ammunition to Soldiers. According to Nesbitt, 60 percent of all shipments coming out of JMC sites are less than 15,000 pounds.

"We're estimating potential saving in the millions of dollars once the automated sourcing process is fully operational. It's going to pay for itself in the first year and I'm hoping to have it on line in nine months."

Nesbitt is also exploring the possibility of placing a liaison office at the Sunny Point facility in Southport, N.C., where the vast majority of all JMC vessel movement originates.

Nesbitt said he's satisfied with the direction of the Transportation Directorate.

"In today's environment, outside organizations are realizing what we can do," he said.

**-- Shevaun J. Lassiter, AFSC Public Communications Intern**

# Change *Continued from page 1*



Photo by Tony Lopez, EL Hamm

**Col. Rogers addresses the crowd during the Joint Munitions Command's Change of Command ceremony held on Sept. 15.**

"The Army may have the greatest equipment in the world, but it can't do a thing without the right munitions," Johnson said. "That's what really brings lethality to the battlefield."

Radin was a "fervent" advocate of the JMC mission, Johnson said. "He took on this job and did it as only Bob Radin can do," he added.

Turning to Radin's replacement, Johnson said, "Jim Rogers is no stranger to this command. He's done a great job everywhere he's been, and he brings a lot of great experience with him. We welcome him and his family to our community."

In his farewell remarks, Radin noted that he expected an assignment with a field unit when he received his promotion to general officer, so was surprised when he selected to lead JMC.

"I said to myself, 'This must be a mistake. I'm a field officer. I don't know anything about making bullets,'" Radin said. "But I found out that I had a tremendous staff here in Rock Island to assist me; a great partner in PEO-Ammo; great installations in the field; great plant managers; and great support from

the community of contractors involved in producing ammunition."

Radin thanked Johnson "for your help, support and mentorship"; the Quad Cities community "for your hospitality"; and, finally, his wife Sara "for standing beside me all the way and being a real trooper." Noting that he had served a recent tour of duty in Southwest Asia and traveled on numerous other projects, he remarked, "I counted up the time, and I've been gone from home for 15 months out of the past two years.

"Now, we welcome my best friend in uniform to this job," Radin said of Rogers. "You're the right guy for this command, and I wish you the very best."

Rogers opened his remarks by noting that he heard many positive things about the Arsenal and the surrounding community. "We've been told that the Quad Cities has a lot to offer," Rogers said, "and that it's a great place to raise a family. And, in case you haven't noticed, we've got a family to raise."

Rogers and his wife, Reba, are the parents of four children.

"JMC is all about supporting Soldiers," Rogers said. "We perform a mission that's critical to all our armed services.

"I hope to continue all the great work that's been done here," he added, "and I hope to continue and strengthen the partnership with PEO-Ammo. Reba and I look forward to being part of JMC and being part of this wonderful community."

A native of Brighton, Mich., Rogers has served as an Army officer since 1979, when he graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He came to JMC from MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., where he was chief of the Logistics Operations Division (J-4) at the U.S. Central Command.

**— Paul Levesque, AFSC  
Public Communications**